

**Corporal Kenneth Raymond Berry (before 27th May 1894 - ????)
and Gunner John Raymond Berry (1896 – 26th April 1918)**

These two young men are remembered on the Berry grave stone in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe. For a time the grave stone was held up by scaffolding poles and a plank of wood. But this is one of the gravestones that has been recently 'reglued' ie safely restored to stand on its own!

It is also one of the many graves in this cemetery that had its memorial inscription recorded in what is known as the Blackburn Registers. In the late 1920s and the early 1930s a gentleman called Arthur Blackburn visited and recorded memorial inscriptions in over 100 local churchyards and cemeteries in the Bradford area.



This was what he recorded for this grave, plot Q75.

**IN MEMORY OF
JOHN BERRY
OF LIGHTCLIFFE
BORN FEB^Y 7TH 1840;
DIED MARCH 7TH 1869**

**Watch therefore for ye know not
what hour your Lord doth come.
Matthew XXIV.42**

Lower down the inscription reads:-

**ALSO IN MEMORY OF
KENNETH AND JOHN R. BERRY,
WHO DIED AND ARE BURIED IN FRANCE
SONS OF RAYMOND & JESSIE MARGARET BERRY
AND GRANDSONS OF THE ABOVE
"IN GODS KEEPING"**

These two WW1 casualties were the only children of Raymond Berry and Jessie Margaret Collinson. Kenneth Raymond Berry was baptised at St Matthew's Church on 27th May 1894 when his father was an "Architect" and the family's abode was Lightcliffe. No baptism record has been found for John Raymond Berry but his birth was registered in Halifax in Q4 1896.

On 31st March 1901 the family were living in Denhamgate Road, Hipperholme with a domestic servant. Father Raymond was a 33 year old "Architect", his wife Jessie was 27 years old with the boys Kenneth and "Jackie" aged 6 and 4. By the 1911 census the family were living with Raymond's widowed mother Martha Berry at South View, Lightcliffe. Forty three year old "Architect" Raymond and his 36 year old wife Jessie had been married for 17 years. Sixteen year old Kenneth was a "Dyer" but John aged 14 was still a "Scholar", most probably at Hipperholme Grammar School.

Corporal Kenneth Raymond Berry (before 27th May 1894 - ???)

Kenneth Raymond Berry joined the 2/4th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). This is his www.forces-war-records.co.uk entry

First Name:	K
Surname:	Berry
Resided Town:	Lightcliffe
Rank:	Corporal
Service Number:	200708
Gallantry Awards:	<p>Military Medal</p> <p>This Level 3 Gallantry Medal was established during the First World War on the 25th March 1916 and introduced in the London Gazette issue 29535, (back dated to 1914) to personnel of the British Army and other services, and personnel of Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank. It was the other ranks' equivalent to the Military Cross (M.C.), (which was awarded to Commissioned Officers and, rarely, to Warrant Officers, who could also be awarded the M.M.).</p> <p>The military decoration was awarded to K Berry for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal.</p> <p>Conferment of the medal was announced in the London Gazette and K Berry earned the right to add the letters M.M. to his name.</p>
Gazette Info:	Gazette Issue 31061. M.M. The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Military Medal to this non-commissioned officer.
Gazette Date:	10/12/1918
Gazette Page:	14658
Service:	British Army
Regiment:	Duke Of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
Battalion:	2/4th Battalion (Why is this important?)

The same website gives the following troop movements for Kenneth's regiment.

2/4th 2/5th & 2/6th Battalion Territorial Force

Sept 1914 The 2/4th Formed at Halifax and the 2/6th formed at Skipton.

Oct 1914 The 2/5th formed at Huddersfield.

Mar 1915 All moved to Derbyshire as part of the 186th Brigade of the 62nd Division and then moved to Thoresby Park, Ollerton and then Retford and then Newcastle.

Jan 1916 Moved to Salisbury Plain and then Halesworth, Suffolk and then Bedford.

Jan 1917 Mobilised for war and landed in France and engaged in various actions on the Western front including;

The Operations on the Ancre, The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The first attack on Bullecourt (part of the Arras offensive), The German attack on Lagnicourt (part of the Arras offensive), The Battle of Bullecourt (part of the flanking operations round Arras), The actions on the Hindenburg Line, The Cambrai Operations.

30.01.1918 The 2/5th absorbed by the 1/5th and the 2/6th disbanded in France;

The Battle of Bapaume, The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of the Tardenois (part of the Battles of the Marne 1918), The Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line, The Battle of Havrincourt, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The Battle of the Selle, The capture of Solesmes, The Battle of the Sambre.

11.11.1918 Ended the war east of Maubeuge, France.

When Kenneth Raymond Berry joined up or what action he saw is unclear. Similarly wherever he fell in France has also not been found. The Military Medal allowing him to use the letters M.M. after his name appears on these documents.

WEST RIDING REGIMENT REGIMENT OR CORPS. 2046. B.

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 201 18/7/1919 20/8/1919 of 1919.

On-11/11/18 or becoming non-effective	NAME	Unit previously served with. Regt. No. and Rank in same on entry into theatre of war	Theatres of war in which served								Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Reason of disposal of decorations (a) Presented (b) Dispatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS
			From To		From To		From To		From To				
200693 W.O. 01.2.	HARDY Cecil	200693 2/4.W.Rid.R.	B.W.M. Awarded 12/1/20/1919. 20/8/1919									Entered in B.M.	G.C. (unit not stated.) 20-5-16.
200695 Pte.	GREENWOOD Norman	200695. Pte. 1/4.W.Rid.R. 10. W.Rid.R.	X										Class "2" 6-5-10.
200696 W.O. 01.2.	MOBLE Joseph	200696.W.O.01.2. 1/4.W.Rid.R.	O										Class "4" 4-3-10.
200700 Pte.	DYSON Harry	200700. Pte. 2/4.W.Rid.R.	O									6059/1919. 20/8/1919. 20/8/1919. 20/8/1919.	Class "2" 17-5-10.
200701 Pte.	COMERSALL Albert Edward	200701. Pte. 1/4.W.Rid.R.	X										Pres. dead. 5-3-16.
200706 Sgt.	WARRINGTON Arthur	200706. Sgt. 1/4.W.Rid.R.	O										Class "2" 18-5-10.
200707 Sgt.	WHITBREAD Frank (N.W.)	200707. Sgt. 2/4.W.Rid.R.	O										Class "2" 21-5-10.
200708 Pte.	BERRY Kenneth (N.W.)	200708. Pte. 2/4.W.Rid.R.	O										Class "2" 4-1-10.
200709 Sgt.	BEVERLY George (N.W.)	200709. Sgt. 2/4.W.Rid.R.	O										Class "2" 17-5-10.

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place York.
Date May 1920.

Signature and rank of Colonel, O.I.O.
Official Records, York.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
BERRY, M.M.	W Rid R.	Plt	200708
Kenneth			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	02/101 B16	2346	Class Z, BWM medals (uncorr. enlg) CR 487/B.7.12.50 Re-issued. 14.391/B. d/9.8.21.3360/abt
BRITISH	Do	Do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
			K 1380.
			3360/abt

This medal record card records that his medals had to be reissued after an error but the question is to whom? The Class Z in the remarks is explained on the website <http://www.1914-1918.net/reserve.html>

Class Z Reserve was authorised by an Army Order of 3 December 1918. There were fears that Germany would not accept the terms of any peace treaty, and therefore the British Government decided it would be wise to be able to quickly recall trained men in the eventuality of the resumption of hostilities. Soldiers who were being demobilised, particularly those who had agreed to serve "for the duration", were at first posted to Class Z. They returned to civilian life but with an obligation to return if called upon. The Z Reserve was abolished on 31 March 1920.

No death record has been found that fits a Kenneth (Raymond) Berry born 1896. Similarly no Soldier's Will has been found for Kenneth Raymond Berry although one does exist for his brother John Raymond Berry.

So when and where he died is a mystery; the only clue is on his grandfather's gravestone:-

ALSO IN MEMORY OF
KENNETH AND JOHN R. BERRY,
WHO DIED AND ARE BURIED IN FRANCE

This part of the memorial inscription was not there when Arthur Blackburn recorded the words on local gravestones in the late 1920s to early 1930s. So they were added long after World War One had ended.

Gunner John Raymond Berry (1896 – 26th April 1918)

John Raymond Berry's death was announced in the Halifax Courier on Saturday May 11th 1918.

Deaths

DIED IN THE COUNTRY'S SERVICE

BERRY ---- Died of wounds in the 30th General Hospital, France, on April 26th, 1918, aged 21, Gnr. John R. Berry, the beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Berry, 3, Bentley Rd, Doncaster (late South-view, Lightcliffe)

Then the Brighthouse Echo had this report on May 31st 1918.

TANK MAN KILLED

GUNNER J.R.BERRY, FORMERLY OF

LIGHTCLIFFE

Gunner John R. Berry, Tank Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Berry, 3 Bentley Road, Doncaster, and formerly of South view, Lightcliffe, died of wounds in France on April 26th. Mrs Berry has now received a letter from Captain P.Fitzherbert, who says:--

I am very sorry to hear of the death of your son. I heard that he had been wounded, but the men who were with him did not think it was serious. He was wounded when acting as Lewis gunner in a detachment we sent up to help the infantry when the Hun broke through at Armentieres. A piece of shell hit him in the side during the barrage, and the men who were there managed to get him away soon to the dressing station. Of the two officers who were there one is a prisoner of war, and the other is wounded and in hospital. The date was the 12th April. Your son has been with our section all the time out here, so I knew him very well. I never want to know anyone better than he was, as he was always willing to do anything, and I never heard him complain.

Gunner Berry was an old Hipperholme Grammar School boy, and, after leaving school, was on the staff of the district superintendent of the L. and N.W. Railway at Broad Street, E.C. He joined the Machine Gun Corps in 1916, after failing to pass the eyesight test for the Inns of Court O.T.C., at Berkhamstead. He went out to France on May 25th, 1917.

Gunner John Raymond Berry was buried at BARAQUES MILITARY CEMETRY, SANGATTE, Pas de Calais, France pictured below.



Held by an individual in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	In sequence Units and Corps previously served with by each individual and Regtl. No. therein: the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of Accruals (a) Presented (b) Despatched by Post (c) Taken into Stock	REMARKS
Regtl. No.	Rank						
69731	Pte	FOWLER George	5 Tank Corps 69731 Pte				
69732	Pte	BALDWIN Clifford	5 Tank Corps 69732 Pte				
69734	L/Cpl	ELLIS George Herbert	7 Tank Corps 69734 Pte				
69735	Pte	BERRY John Raymond	7 Tank Corps 69735 Pte				Killed in Action 26.4.18.
69737	Sgt.	DOB William Vaughan	7 Tank Corps 69737 Sgt.				

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
BERRY	Tank 6	Pte	69735
John. R.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	TC/10/181	72	
BARRIS	- do - do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

Father Raymond Berry (before 30th June 1867 – 4th July 1945)

Raymond Berry was the son of John Berry, a Lightcliffe Land Surveyor, and Martha Lee. They baptised him at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 30th July 1867. His father died less than two years later.

For the 1871 census 3 year old Raymond was living with his 31 year old widowed mother Martha, his older sister Janet and a 60 year old unmarried lady. Their address was Botton Hall, Lightcliffe next to Pear Tree Farm on the census return.

But for the 1881 and 1891 censuses Raymond was at Gaubert Hall, Lightcliffe, his maternal grandparents' house; although on 3rd April 1881 the grandfather was away from home. Raymond was still a 13 year old Scholar in 1881 but sister Janet was a 16 year old "Pupil Teacher" then. Janet had moved away by 1891 but Raymond was still there with his widowed mother and her parents. He was a 23 year old "Architect & Land Surveyor".

In 1892 Raymond Berry married Jessie Margaret Collinson who was born in Halifax. They were living in Denhamgate Road with their two young sons in 1901. And then in 1911 they were with Raymond's widow mother at South View, Lightcliffe, as already recorded. *A small and sensitive piece of information about Raymond has not been included in this biography. If anyone wishes to find out more then please contact the website.*

At some time between the 1911 census and son John's death in 1918 Raymond and Jessie must have moved to Doncaster possibly to 3 Bentley Road the address the Brighthouse Echo article gives. There was then a further move before 1925 to Sheffield as this entry in [Kelly's Directory for Sheffield and Rotherham](#) confirms.

BERRY, Raymond (~, Architect).

Address: White Brincliffe, Psalter Lane, ~ in 1925.

Raymond Berry died aged 78 on 4th July 1945 and was buried back at St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe on 7th July 1945 in plot Q75 with his parents.

**ALSO RAYMOND BERRY, SON OF THE
ABOVE JOHN AND MARTHA BERRY,
DIED JULY 4TH 1945, AGED 78 YEARS.
AT REST**

His probate reads:-

BERRY Raymond of 285 Psalter-lane Ecclesall Sheffield died 4 July 1945 Probate Llandudno 3 November to Janet Berry spinster. Effects £1581 8s 8d

His wife Jessie Margaret Berry nee Collinson does not appear to be buried with her husband. In fact neither a death record nor a probate record has been found for her.

Aunt Janet Berry (before 3rd October 1864 – 15th April 1949)

Headmistress at Lightcliffe National School

Janet Berry was the eldest child of John and Martha Berry. So she was, therefore, the sister of Raymond and hence the aunt of the WW1 soldiers. She was baptised on 3rd October 1864 at St Matthew's Churchyard.

Before the 1871 census as previously recorded she had lost her father, John Berry, in 1869. This left young Janet, a 6 year old Scholar living with her mother and brother at Bottom Hall, Lightcliffe on 2nd April 1871. Ten years later on 3rd April 1881 Janet, her brother Raymond and their widowed mother Marth Berry were at Gaubert Hall, Lightcliffe, her maternal grandparents' house. Janet was a 16 year old "Pupil Teacher".

Apparently Janet Berry went to a teacher training college in Oxford and then taught in London. By the time of the 1891 census she was a "Teacher" boarding with another teacher at 129 Ferndale Road, Lambeth, Stockwell, London, the residence of a Hobbs family. She must have moved back to Lightcliffe soon after this as from 1891 – 1894 she was headmistress of the girls' section of Lightcliffe National School. Unfortunately she then had to step down to save money when the school was run by one head teacher. But she returned as headmistress in 1898 when the school was established as fully co-educational. At the funeral of Crimean war veteran Dragoon Guard Joseph Naylor on 14th January 1901 it was reported in the local newspapers that:-

The children from the village school, under the schoolmaster Mr. Geo. Hague, and schoolmistress **Miss Berry**, were drawn up at attention as the cortege passed.

The 1901 census recorded that 36 year old Janet Berry was "Hd Mistress Lightcliffe N Sch". She was living at South View with her widowed mother Martha Berry, her elderly maternal Grandmother 86 year old Martha Lee and a Domestic Servant. Her paternal grandmother Nanny Berry and her cousin Laura Armytage Berry daughter of her uncle and aunt, Herbert and Marie Berry, had been resident in a South View, Lightcliffe house at the time of the 1881 census; perhaps it was the same house

The Yorkshire indexers website lists teachers for 1908/1909 extracted from Kelly's directories by Alan Longbottom. Here is the entry for Janet Berry:-

Berry J. Miss	Lightcliffe	mistress	WRY	1908
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Then from John Brooke of the Lightcliffe and District History Society writing about the Lightcliffe School Log Books

The school log books provide us with a fascinating social history of the school. In addition to telling us about the building work and the day to day life of the school, they provide the reader with a picture of what life was like for pupils and staff over a period of more than 100 years. Although a log would have been kept from the day that the school opened, or very shortly afterwards, the first books have never been located. The story begins, therefore, in 1893 when Robert Markham was head of the boys' school that occupied the western section of the building and Janet Berry was head of the girls' and infants' school that occupied the central and eastern portions. The schools amalgamated permanently in 1906. Each head teacher occupied a house at the end of their particular school and the headmistress's house is still clearly visible at the junction of Wakefield Road and Knowle Top Road.

On the night of 2nd April 1911 a 40 year old Janet Berry was boarding, with others, at 78 Bentley Road, Doncaster. This was the home of a "Coal Miner" Charles Dixon and his family. Janet Berry's occupation was "Schoolmistress". So although her age is wrong this is almost certainly the aunt. Was she still a schoolmistress at Lightcliffe National School and was this a holiday break? Bentley Road, Doncaster was where her brother and his wife were residing when John Raymond Berry was killed. Is this just a coincidence or?

Eighty four year old Janet Berry died on 15th April 1949 and was buried on 18th April 1949 in St Matthew's Churchyard. She was the last occupant of plot Q75.

ALSO JANET BERRY, DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE

DIED APRIL 15TH 1945,

AGED 84 YEARS.

Her probate record reads:-

BERRY Janet of 4 South View Lightcliffe near Halifax spinster died 15 April 1949
Probate London 15 July to Marjorie Collinson spinster and Walter Greenwood
Robertshaw solicitor. Effects £2845 6s 1d

It seems more than likely that she spent the rest of her life living at 4 South View, Lightcliffe. Did she travel abroad? To France, to find visit where her nephews fell?

Did she organise the engraving of the memorial inscriptions for her nephews and then their father on the family grave whose first occupant was her father John Berry?

Grandfather John Berry

(7th/8th February 1840 – 7th March 1869)

John Berry was born on 7th / 8th February 1840 – the baptism record and the grave inscription disagree! On the 19th April 1840 his parents William and Nanny Berry had him baptised at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. John was with his parents and sisters in Bramley Lane for the 1841 census. On the night of the 1851 census John Berry was not with his family but was probably the 11 year old John Berry at Barkisland Grammar School. The family resided at the "Sune Inn publights [sic] House" next door to Cliffe Hill Lodge in 1861 when the twenty one year old John Berry was a "Land Surveyor".

Three years later, on 18th May 1864, 24 year old Land Surveyor John Berry married Martha Lee at the parish church in Halifax. John was still a Land Surveyor in Lightcliffe when he and Martha baptised their two children at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe; Janet on 3rd October 1864 and Raymond on 30th June 1867. Sadly on 7th March 1869 John Berry died aged just twenty nine. He was buried on 11th March 1869 in the grave shown above, plot Q75 of St Matthew's Churchyard.

His probate was dated 15th April 1869

The Will of John Berry late of Lightcliffe in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York Land Surveyor deceased who died 7 March 1869 at Lightcliffe aforesaid was proved at Wakefield by the oaths of John Lee of Lightcliffe aforesaid Currier and Herbert Berry of Lightcliffe aforesaid Joiner the Brother the Executors according to the Tenor of the said Will.

Effects under £200 Resworn at the Stamp Office July 1869 Under £450

Grandmother Martha Berry nee Lee

(before 8th January 1840 – 14th February 1932)

Martha Lee was baptised on 8th January 1840 at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Her parents were James, a "Currier", and Martha Lee from Brighouse. She was with them, a sister, a grandfather and uncles in Brighouse on 6th June 1841. By the 1851 census the family had moved to Hartshead cum Clifton when Martha was an 11 year old Scholar. "Currier and Tanner" James Lee then moved his family to Gaubert Hall, Lightcliffe by the 1861 census when Martha along with her mother and a sister were doing "Holdhouse Work" – we know what the enumerator meant!

She too was 24 years old when she married John Berry on 18th May 1864 at the parish church in Halifax. But married life was all too brief and she was soon left with her two young children, Janet and Raymond, at Bottom Hall, Lightcliffe in the 1871 census. No occupation was given for the young widow Martha, no doubt she had plenty to do looking after the children. In this she may have had some help from a 60 year old "Boarder", a Miss Caroline Cooper - born in Highgate, London - or did this just help with her finances?

With her two children the widowed Martha Berry moved back into her parents' house Gaubert Hall by the time of the 1881 census. Only they and her mother were at home on 3rd April 1881. Perhaps her father, James, was away on business. He was a 75 year old "Retired Tanner & Currier" "Living on his means" in 1891 with his wife, widowed daughter and grandson Raymond Berry still at Gaubert Hall, Lydget, Lightcliffe.

Martha Berry's parents were very elderly and living in different households by the 1901 census. Eighty six year old mother Martha Lee was living with her daughter, Martha Berry and her "Hd Mistress" granddaughter, Janet Berry, in South View, Lightcliffe. But her father James Lee was at an address in Shelf. A few months later mother Martha Lee was buried in St Matthew's churchyard on 7th September in plot MM23. But Martha Berry remained at the South View house where she was joined by her son Raymond and his family at the time of the 1911 census.

Martha Berry nee Lee lived until 1932, by which time she had been a widow for over sixty years. She died aged 92 on 14th February 1932 and was buried in her husband's grave in St Matthew's churchyard on 17th February 1932 with the inscription:-

**ALSO MARTHA THE BELOVED WIFE
OF THE ABOVE JOHN BERRY
WHO DIED FEB 14TH 1932**

Our beloved mother and our best friend

No probate record had been found for Martha Beryy.

Perhaps it was Grandmother Martha Berry who asked for the memorial inscriptions about her grandsons Kenneth and John Raymond Berry to be added to the gravestone for plot Q75.

The newly restored Berry gravestone for plot Q75
in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe.



Many more relatives of these WW1 Berry soldiers were buried in the grave yard. To find out more read [The Lee family parts 1 & 2](#) and [The Berry family parts 1 & 2](#).

D.M.Barker
March 2016